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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George Varghese et al  
Serial No.: 09/411,773  
Filed: October 4, 1999  
For: VIRTUAL LANS  
Examiner: Logsdon, Joseph B.  
Art Unit: 2662 (previously 2738)

**RECEIVED**

MAY 06 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the following claims to read as shown below. The changes to these claims are illustrated in the document attached hereto titled "Marked-Up Claims."

- Sub 1
21. (Once Amended) A method of operating a network bridge having a first plurality of ports through which network communications pass to and from the bridge, the method comprising:
- assigning a group identifier to each port of the plurality of ports, wherein all ports with a same assigned group identifier are in a same group;
  - receiving a communication on a first port of the bridge; and
  - sending the communication out of the bridge on all other ports of the bridge having the same assigned group identifier as the first port,
- wherein the communication is a multicast packet having a multicast destination address.
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